



## Committee Passes Legislation to Improve and Integrate Healthcare Information

During an [Oct. 24](#) markup, Members of the **Committee on Science and Technology** passed legislation to ease the integration of Information Technology (IT) into our nation's healthcare system.

"There is a general consensus that the result of fully utilized information technology would be lower cost and improved patient care. Regardless of its acknowledged benefits, the use of IT by the healthcare community remains low and lags far behind other segments of our economy such as financial services, banking and manufacturing," said **Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN)**. "This bill aims to remedy that problem."

Chairman Gordon authored [H.R. 2406](#), the *Healthcare Information Technology Enterprise Integration Act*, requiring the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to establish a program on healthcare information enterprise integration.

H.R. 2406 creates an interoperable health IT system to maintain patient healthcare records. The IT system could potentially benefit thousands of people a year who suffer due to medical errors, improper diagnoses, or being prescribed incorrect medications due to lack of a comprehensive family medical history or poorly maintained records.

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## House Passes S & T Energy Legislation

On Oct. 22, 2007, the House passed [H.R. 3776](#), the *Energy Storage Advancement Act of 2007*, and [H.R. 3775](#), the *Industrial Energy Efficiency Research and Development Act of 2007*.

H.R. 3776 authorizes programs for research, development and demonstration of energy storage systems, and for stationary and vehicular applications.

H.R. 3775 directs the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to conduct research, development, demonstrations, and commercial applications to improve energy efficiency and environmental performance.



Chairman Bart Gordon gives his opening statements at the October 16, 2007 Markup on [H.R. 3776](#), [H.R. 2406](#), [H.R. 1834](#).

OCTOBER E-NEWS  
OCTOBER 31, 2007



Chairman Gordon and Rep. Giffords with students from Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge

### Newsletter Spotlight

Welcome to the October edition of the [House Committee on Science and Technology's E-Newsletter](#).

The Committee appreciates your interest in our work. Please feel free to share Science & Tech E-News with friends and colleagues. They can also [sign up](#) to receive E-News in their own mailboxes quickly and easily.

Sincerely,

Bart Gordon, Chairman,  
U.S. House Committee

### Additional October Agenda Items

[Oct. 4, 2007](#) – *The Globalization of R & D and Innovation, Pt. III: How do Companies Choose Where to Build R & D Facilities?*

[Oct. 10, 2007](#) – *Assessment of the National Science Board's Action Plan for STEM Education*

[Oct. 17, 2007](#) – *Women in Academic Science and Engineering*

[Oct. 30, 2007](#) – *Research to Improve Water-Use Efficiency and Conservation: Technologies and Practices*

## Climate, Scientific Integrity Take Center Stage

The Committee spent considerable time in October on the topic of climate change. Often, the topic intersected with matters of scientific integrity.

- Early in October, [2007 Nobel Peace Prize](#) was awarded jointly to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and former Vice President Al Gore on Oct. 12 for their work on climate change. This February, the Science and Technology Committee was the first Congressional body to hear directly from the [IPCC authors](#) on their climate change findings. In addition, the Committee also hosted [former Vice President Gore](#) at a hearing in March.



Chairman Miller is pictured questioning witnesses during the *Disappearing Polar Bears and Permafrost: Is a Global Warming Tipping Point Embedded in the Ice?* Hearing on [October 17, 2007](#).

- During an [Oct. 17 hearing](#), Members of the [Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee](#) heard testimony aimed at investigating the disappearance of polar bears and permafrost.

- The [Energy and Environment Subcommittee](#) continued its investigation of the next-generation of Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) program during an [Oct. 23 hearing](#). Members discussed the satellites' development with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA).

- On Oct. 25, 2007, Chairman Gordon and Chairman Miller wrote a [letter](#) to Dr. John H. Marburger III, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, requesting all of the records relating to censoring the climate science testimony. To read the complete letter [click here](#).

## Hearing Investigates NASA Air Safety Survey

On Oct. 22, 2007, Chairman Bart Gordon, Chairman Brad Miller, and Chairman Mark Udall wrote a [letter](#) to NASA Administrator Dr. Michael Griffin urging him to halt any destruction efforts of records relating to the National Aviation System Operational Monitoring Service (NAOMS) project. To read the complete letter [click here](#).

An [Oct.31 hearing](#) further pursued the matter. Members of the Committee heard testimony from Dr. Michael Griffin, Administrator of NASA, aimed at investigating the agency's refusal to release the results of the NASA Air Safety Survey.



Chairman Gordon speaking with Mr. Griffin before the [Oct.31 hearing](#).

## Looking Ahead

The Technology and Innovation Subcommittee holds the fourth in a series of hearings examining the offshoring of high-tech jobs on Nov. 6, 2007. Continue to check the Committee website for information on other hearings and events.